

March 8, 2021

Dear Transportation Committee Chairs and Distinguished Members:

I am writing in **support** of Raised H.B. No. 6570, AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT AND MUNICIPAL ZONING.

In Windsor, we have been studying the issue of affordable housing. Turns out, like most towns, we don't have enough to meet the needs of the community. The bill HB 6570 includes the requirement that at least twenty per cent of the development will be affordable housing. I applaud this strong position for affordable housing and encourage you to go even further.

Limited affordable housing choices forces people to move away from where their friends and family live. It also may force people to move further away from their job. It may send the young family away from the school system that has programs that can help their child. It may send the downsizing senior far from their support system. Communities need to be able to accommodate all their citizens, not jettison them when they hit certain milestones. This is especially apparent now, during the COVID year we have just experienced and its destabilizing impacts on incomes.

Transit-oriented development is also essential to mitigate climate change impacts. We need to do everything in our power to eliminate fossil fuel use and transition away from a carbon-intensive economy. This bill is an important piece of this puzzle. Providing for housing near transit centers reduced the need for more car travel and the resulting pollution. This reduction enhances public health through reduced carbon emissions (less asthma and other respiratory diseases), enhancing the quality of life and equity, and leaving more pastoral and natural lands in place to benefit everyone.

This bill addresses both affordable housing and climate change mitigation. I urge you to support HB 6570. Thank you.

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